

DECLASSIFIED
7735017
PRIORITY
NARA DATE: 12/8

FROM: 8 1200 Janaury 45
TO : 9 1200 January 45

S E C R E T

242d Infantry
CP: NEIDERBETSCHDORF

TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE AND INCIDENTS
1215	1st Bn	S-3	B Co wants permission on right limiting point to arrange cross fire with 3rd Bn.
1220			Col CAUM left CP for 1st Bn OP and Arty B Btry CP. Will check in.
1300	S-3	S-4	Col Caum has Ok'd order for 1000 mines. Try to get them.
1305	S-3	S-4	Secure all possible 60 & 81mm illuminating shells for tonight.
1335	Co 1st Bn	Ex O	CO 1st Bn reports Col Caum is at his Bn. Ex O had nothing to report to him.
1451			CO is at 3rd Bn CP.
1500	Maj Gen Wysh, CG 79th Div		arrived at CP, gave information on current situation. DIA is South of Gamsheim but has not been able to penetrate town. CCB, 12th Armd Div is carrying out attack from North. 314th Inf has been held up in vicinity of Rohrwiller and Drussenheim part of 314th is trying to clean out bridgehead at 170170 but part of 314th in Rohrwiller has been held up at bridge South of town 130168. Tanks are unable to cross bridge. Present plan is for tanks to swing back West and then South and Infantry to proceed directly S regrouping at some point to the South. Col Fricke asked about 2nd Bn. Gen Wysh reported things are pretty confused at present and they are trying to unscramble the mixed-up units. Gen Wysh did not believe that unit would return before tomorrow.
1315	S-3	2nd Bn	Upon arrival revert to reserve, Rittershoffen. Prevent enemy approach Rittershoffen. Prepare counter-attack plans and be prepared to execute on Regtl order to prevent penetration of our lines from SE, E, NE and North.
1505			Gen Wysh and aide left CP.
1510			Elements of 2nd Bn passed CP in ducks headed toward Rittershoffen. Elements of Hq Co and aid men identified.
1600	Capt Cutter	S-3	These are the names of plumbers furnished by personnel: Hq Co 2nd Bn - Chonnie Dees, Pvt Howard and Wilkerson. Co A - Howard Insingas, Pfc.
1602			Col Caum returned to CP, Brig Gen Linden arrived arrived at CP.

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TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE AND INCIDENTS
1630			Brig Gen Linden left CP.
1640	S-3	1st Bn CO	Gen Engineer personnel today to lay string of mines across road by OP #3.
1700	S-3	3rd Bn	Have you telephone communication with 2nd Bn? NO.
1730			AT CO remaining with 1st Bn all night. Contact them through 1st Bn CP.
1745	Engr O	S-3	Requested information on mine planting in 1st Bn area.
1745	S-3	1st Bn	Mine field is already in. Overlay prepared and being sent to Hq. Also sending overlay of all fires.
1845	S-3	3rd Bn	One patrol will be out but will return around 2100. No one on other road that makes junction with MLR 1932.
1850	S-3	1st Bn	Do we have mines around Neiderbetschdorf?
1900	S-3	315th CO	No daisy mines around Neiderbetschdorf.
2000	3rd Bn	S-3	Patrol has returned and Bn S-2 has gone to interview men. Will report results.
2020	Capt Holbrook	S-3	TFWAHD has run into Daisy Chain two-thirds of the way between Neiderbetschdorf and Hohlen 137345, guarded by three men. They understand the men are ours and the CG wants the mines removed; they hamper the operations of the tanks and are in our area. Capt Cunningham; we have no knowledge of mines in this sector but will check and try to find out what the score is.
2023	S-3	313th S-3	Do you know anything about minefield on road to Neiderbetschdorf to Khlendorf. Ans, NO.
2027	S-3	Capt Dolan	Do you know anything about minefield near Neiderbetschdorf? Ans: NO.
2029	S-3	Lt Eddy AT Co	Make reconnaissance to determine who has daisy chain at 137345.
2050	S-3	313th Inf 1st Bn S-2	I'd like to get rid of daisy chain 137345. would like to coordinate jeep run in that area.
2100	Col Caum	Lt Hull TDs	What is your situation? This new outfit came in today and it is the CG's order that we mix our TDs with theirs. We have three in front and four in town in 242d Inf sector with two in Rittershoffen in mobile reserve.
2100	G-3	S-3	Requested location of CP of 2nd Bn.
2100	Maj Grice	S-3	G-3 wants overlay of all defensive positions by tomorrow evening. Wants it on 1/25,000, but will take it on 1/50,000.

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2100	S-3	AT CO	Do we have any daisy chains on road from Neiderbetschdorf? Ans NO. Suggest a check with Capt Strom.
2110	Ex O	S-3	Three Ducks missing. Have guide.
2115	S-3	G-3	Advised 2nd Bn CP location: M D N R F O X B.
2115	CO	CO 1st Bn	2nd Bn has closed in - two TDs in Rittershoffen and seven more between Rittershoffen and yourself.
2135	S-4	G-4	About some ducks that are to be turned back to their units and about requisitions.
2152	Lt Finigan	S-3	About some mines; sending ducks back to their units. He and guide (Nelson) took them back.
2214	S-3	1st Bn Ex O 232d Inf.	Men in their foxholes of Co C asleep. A report is coming in about it.
2314	2nd Bn CO	S-3	Reports that this Bn is in good shape and is sending reports on Signal, Ordnance, Clothing missing in the morning. Also sending rosters of men present.
0010	S-3	315th Inf	About daisy chain of mines across the road that the unit they belong to is in question.
0045	DY O	315th Inf	About mines on road from Kuhlendorf and Neiderbetschdorf. At this time two Officers from AT Co 242d Inf were present and they state that they have traveled the road to a point 500 yards North of Neiderbetschdorf, and 600 yards South of Kuhlendorf and that they believe the road is clear of mines at this time.
0120	3rd Bn	S-3	M Co reports white flare 600 to 800 yards right of their 2nd platoon on an Az 140°. I Co reports small arms fire, 4 rds 200 yds NW of their #2 pillbox on an Az of 45°.
0225	1st Bn	S-3	Reports shelling has stopped and that there is small arms sniper fire and patrol firing over on their OP #9.
0340	3rd Bn	S-3	L Co reports white flare 1000 yds on left flank. I Co reports white flare on left flank from Post #2. Post #1 reports a white flare 1000 yds North of their positions.
0500	1st Bn	S-3	Reports shelling and flares on their left flank. seem to be along road in 1st Bn area. Will give them Artillery fire if they need it.
0620	S-3	3rd Bn CO	Check on your left flank. 3rd Bn CO reports that the patrol on his right was asleep. (232d Inf).
0621	S-3	1st Bn CO 232d Inf	Asked to check on his patrol being asleep.

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TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE AND INCIDENTS
0700	CO	1st Bn	Check on your outpost. The OP #2 has lost communication with its company. Enemy are in his line. We are shelling them.
0710	S-3	3rd Bn CO	S-3 ordered 3rd Bn to have I Co fire their MGs on the left as a EFL.
0720	3rd Bn	S-3	I Co is firing their EFL across B Co.
0730			Col Caum and Capt Cunningham left for 1st Bn CP.
0740	Gen Wahl	Ex O	Gen Wahl ordered all shelling possible and to be on the lookout for possible infiltration.
0745	2nd Bn	Ex O	2nd Bn requested maps of fighting area. ExO arranged for maps.
0815	S-2 2nd Bn	Ex O	Gen Wahl asked about situation and told ExO to have plenty of weight on the enemy as they go back. Use 2nd Bn if needed. Col Shriver is on the way to this CP.
0835	3rd Bn	Ex O	I Co reports capture of two German prisoners. L Co fired on a ten man German patrol. A fifteen man patrol from I Co is out and one eight man patrol from L Co captured one prisoner at B Co OP.
0840	Ex O	G-3 79th Div	Ex O advised that Germans are shelling Hatten heavily. All communications have been cut. Penetration at B Co was at 0700, and C Co was present and was thrown in to restore the line. Best information at present is that line is being restored. No action in front of A Co. Five man patrol of enemy in front of I Co at 0800, two PWs taken, other three escaped. L Co fired on ten man patrol in front of their area. I Co sent 15 man patrol to run them down. L Co sent out 8 man patrol. 3rd Bn has been ordered to fight hard for their OPLR, and to be active in patrolling. Five enemy tanks reported right edge of woods at 197338. Col Caum wants TDS as quickly as possible to cover tanks. Col Shriver is on the way to this CP. Gen Wahl is advised of the situation.
0845			Line to 813th TDS is out.
0900	1st Bn	Ex O	1st Bn requested TDS to combat tank threat.
0905	315th Inf	Ex O	ExO advised Col Shriver and Maj Hoover of situation.
0910	S-3	Ex O	S-3 advised Col Fricke that two friendly tanks have gone East toward Hatten (seen at 188325 RJ) about 0810.
0910	1st Bn	Ex O	1st Bn reports seven tanks breaking through line. Location not ascertained. Artillery has tanks under fire.

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242d Inf.

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TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE AND INCIDENTS
0920	Co. B. ter-E 813th TD	Ex O	Advised that seven tanks breaking through are under fire by Arty. Tanks and enemy troops are withdrawing.
0950	S-3	1st Bn	Our tanks are proceeding to HATTEN have guides alerted.
0950	Gen LINDEN	Ex O	Requested information. Advised seven tanks with foot troops made attempt to reach HATTEN. Two tanks knocked out, foot troops and balance of tanks withdrawing. We have several prisoners Gen WYCKE is attaching this Regiment to TF WAHL. Lt WYNN to go directly to WAHL Hq. Gen LINDEN will call at CP today.
1000	FA Ln O	S-3	All tanks have withdrawn to woods. Inf deployed along road 190326 and under time fire.
1005	Ex O	Bns	Active patrolling tonight. Maj BULL to be advised to send all possible ammo. forward.
1005	Lt FULTON	CCA 14th Armd	Also attached to TFW, arrived at CP. Has mission to reconnoiter all possible attack areas for their tanks and armored infantry.
1040	1st Bn	Ex O	1st Bn has twelve prisoners from 35th Regt of 25th Pz Grenadiers. Requested guards be sent for prisoners.
1045	2nd Bn	via Msg Cen	Pick up twelve German prisoners being marched toward your town from 1st Bn. Have them marched back to IPW. Ex.O.
1045	Lt C1C		After interrogation of prisoners reports men from 35th and 119th Regts of 25 Pz Grenadiers.
1105	Col MEADE	Ex O	Requested information of our lines. Advised we are re established and we are all set.
1115			RITTERSHOVEN being shelled by enemy artillery.
1120	S-3 232d Inf	Ex O	Co C is now being hit in ROSHWOOG (2225) and in LEUTENHEIM by about 250 Germans. Motorizing 2nd Bn to move up immediately. Col FRICK gave our situation.
1130	I & R	S-2	Verifies artillery shelling of RITTERSHOVEN.
1135	Maj BULL	Ex O	The only way we can get mines is through our Engineers. Capt MENSINGER took call. S-4 reports that the only way we can get mines is by telling Engrs when mine fields are wanted. There are 500 allowed for AT Co use.

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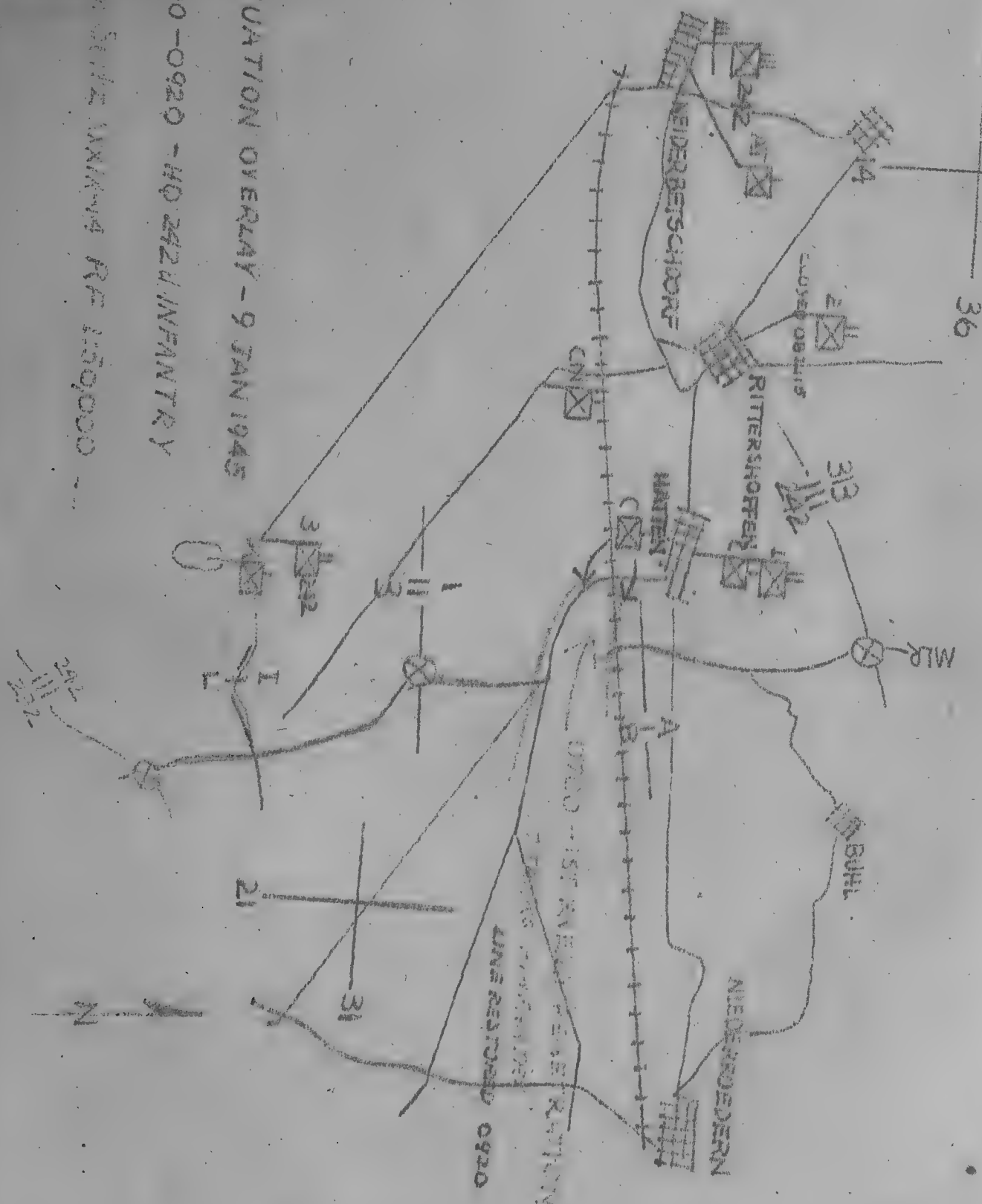
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1140	Ex O	Col Shriver	Advised situation around Hatten. We have reestablished our lines. Situation cleared up. 119th Regiment still in strength in front. 232d Co C being hard hit to right of our L Co. 200 enemy Infantry. No tanks.
1155	Ex O	Capt Metzinger	Requested information of all bridges in front area.
1155	Gen Wahl	Ex O	Request what reserves we have in our area and particularly on our right. We have one reserve Co in 3rd Bn area. Be sure tanks knocked out are completely destroyed so they can not be salvaged. Keep right flank alerted. Don't let enemy get into woods or pillboxes.

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 CP: NEIDERBETSCHDORF

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TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE AND INCIDENTS
1210	Col Shriver	Gen Wahl	Gave report of situation on our front. Everything along front is presently quiet. Be sure TD and Infantry are hooked in together and get good fields of fire in front.
1220	S-3	1st Bn	Requested information. S-3 advised of situation, fairly quiet, mostly artillery and sniper fire. Co CO has no officers, men working under 1st Sgt. and advancing OK.
1230	Capt Holbrook	S-3	A Lt Col moved our tanks (TFW) without authority. S-3 said, I know nothing about these tanks. A Company of tanks stopped in Rittershoffen around 1000. The Tank Commander stated he was sent to assist us. While talking to him, he received a radio message to return to KUHLENDORF.
1240	S-3	1st Bn CO	S-3 asked if M-10 tanks were moved. 1st Bn denied knowledge of their whereabouts. 1st Bn has two two forts. C Co. has lost all their officers. Regiment has three TD's with it.
1237	1st Bn	S-3	1st Bn reported 5 tanks coming out of woods followed by infantry. Fire being placed on them, but need tank support. C Co pinned down. Bazooka and mortar ammo low in Bn. Cn Co doing good job. Tanks coming from woods are using flame throwers.
1250	Ex 0	TD's	Ex 0 called TD's for additional support. TD's could not make a definite commitment.
1255	Ex 0	1st Bn CO	Ex 0 advised 1st Bn CO there are two TD's just S of Bn. CO 1st Bn rptd enemy tanks in great numbers coming through woods and have practically overrun B Co positions. Col Fricke ordered that a man be sent S to contact the TD's, and to keep infantry firing at enemy troops with the tanks.
1258	Ex 0	T F WAHL	Ex 0 reported that enemy tanks are coming from woods on B Co positions followed by infantry. We are sure of three tanks, but there may be more. Tanks are using flame throwers. Friendly artillery is firing on tanks. TD CO is on way to check situation.
1300	CO 2nd Bn	Ex 0	2nd Bn CO reported that one Co has been committed to clean out snipers in HATTEN. Bn needs ammo, particularly bazooka ammunition. Also needs FO badly. Ex 0 advised that there is an FO in Rittershoffen.
1305	Arty LO	Ex 0	There are eight tanks reported in front now.
1306	Ex 0	2nd Bn CO	Ex 0 advised 2nd Bn CO that artillery observer is near 2nd Bn. Another is being sent to G Co. 1st Bn line out. No radio contact with 1st Bn.
1310	Ex 0	2nd Bn	Ex 0 informed 2nd Bn CO of breakthrough by enemy near Hatten.

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1320	Col CAUM	Ex O	14th Armd Rcn reports 12 of enemy tanks vicinity of our B Co front line.
1325	Capt Holbrook Col Shriver		Gen Wahl has ordered tanks to Rittershoffen to restore situation. Advised TF Wahl thirty-five vehicles in vicinity 190334.
1330	Col Shriver	CG	Rcn people have left Rittershoffen for their OP. We have one Co in Hatten and two in Rittershoffen. No liaison with TD in woods South of Hatten.
1335	Col Shriver	CG Wahl	Gen Wahl has ordered 2nd Bn of 315th and C Co of tanks. Sending one platoon to Neiderbetschdorf, one platoon now here.
1340	Ex O	3rd Bn	Get patrols out and watch for enemy troop carriers. One AT gun, ours, knocked out vicinity boundary of 1st and 2nd Bn.
1340	Col Shriver	CG	Has tank reconnaissance arrived there? Ans No. Plan is to have 2nd Bn counterattack with platoon of TDs. Will not move until word is received from Col Caum therein, and final word from Col Shriver.
1345	Col Caum	Col Shriver	1st Bn reports tanks followed by troops carrier going by #1 Box in Hatten. No TDs located in Hatten.
1350	Col Shriver	CO	Start 2nd Bn to Hatten.
			94th Rcn Outfit from OP reports 16 tanks, 3 troop carriers, 8 half-tracks at 180324. Tanks are Mk IV or VI.
1355	A & P Plt Ldr	2nd Bn	Sent back for ammunition. Will take two to three hours, shall we wait? Send MG, 81 HE lt, send hand grenades, and bazooka ammunition as quickly as possible. Keep front line Bn supplied at any cost.
1400			Lt Speelman TD reporting to Rittershoffen for liaison Officer.
1405	Ex O	Cn Co	Move to previous prepared positions.
1405	Col Caum	Col Shriver	Tanks in Hatten are cutting the hell out of our Infantry. Tanks on way. Hold 2nd Bn and get some AT guns in position.
1410	Ex O	TFWAHL	Gave information of situation to TF WAHL. Capt Holbrook reports 2nd Bn of 315th, one Plt of TDs and one Co tanks on the way. TDs should be near Neiderbetschdorf.
1420	Ex O	2nd Bn 313th	Advised twelve tanks have skirted TF Wahl. Secure bazooka ammunition from WAHL Hq immediately and send to 2nd Bn.
1435			No wire to any Bn, per Lt TABB.

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THESE SPACES FOR MESSAGE CENTER ONLY		
TIME FILED	MSG CEN No.	HOW SENT
MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE CENTER IN DUPLICATE)		PRECEDENCE
No.	DATE 9 JAN	
To	FULLER 6	
<p>1 Co Med this will follow on to MLR immediately. Your 2nd Bn will follow up and restore MLR. Company forms MLR in 1st Bn sector w/ 2 Co each 1st 2nd Bn; one co ea. in reserve in Hatten. 2nd Bn 215th will remain in RITTERSHOFEN for res. & close-up support. Hatten must be thoroughly cleared of eno. prior to dark.</p>		
OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SENDER		TIME SIGNED
CO-Section		1600
SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF WRITER: Hoover Maj 3		

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1445	TKCO	Col Shriver	Tank outfit has arrived and is set up outside of town. Two enemy tanks have been knocked out vicinity Cn Co., but they are still firing. Lt Col Holden came on wire and reported that his troops were on the way up and standing by for instructions. It was requested that Col Holden get all the information possible on what happened to the infantry at Matten, and what the true situation is ---wire went out.
1450	Capt Kuznicki	Ex O	Capt Kuznicki asked for our LD. Ex O reported LD is in vicinity of Rittershoffen.
1505	Msg Cen	S-3	Radio contact has been established with 2nd and 3rd Bns and AT Co. None with 1st Bn or Cn Co. Ex O ordered blowing of bridge at 201291 on recommendation of Engr Officers.
1530	Ex O	CO 1st Bn 232d Inf	Ex O requested permission to blow bridge at Koenigsbruch. Permission granted.
1545	Col Shriver	Col Caum	Col Shriver reported nine enemy tanks have been knocked out. CP has no communication with 1st Bn. 2nd Bn is in required positions. Enemy tanks N of road to Rittershoffen have pulled out. Have 2nd Bn stand by unless needed by tankers.
1545	Arty LO		Nine tanks burning confirmed by Air observer.
1546	Maj Hoover	Tk CO	Maj Hoover revealed situation was in hand. He will use tanks with 2nd Bn. 242d Inf to counterattack. M-18's are West of town and report they are getting fire.
1547	Capt Martin	Maj Hoover	Capt Martin informed CP that rest of his company was coming down and asked for guides. Also asked that tanks put on aircraft identification panels. He plans for counterattack.
1615			Capt Watson, Ammo O, arrived at CP with 100 rds of bazooka ammo. Instructed to leave 9 rds with Capt Strom and deliver balance to 2nd Bn in Rittershoffen.
1616	Ex O	Engr LO	Ex O ordered Engr LO to get what mines he could and plan mine fields to defend positions when we regain our MLR. It is a terrific job in the dark and with the frozen ground, but the infantry will help the engineers in every way possible...
1620	Col Caum	Col Shriver	Tanks have requested Col Caum for support. 2nd Bn, 242d Inf will be used, and 242d Inf will man MLR tonight. Col Shriver said he would furnish the reserve and explained plan for counterattack to retake MLR.

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1630	Arty LO	S-3	Reports that Cn Co has returned to positions. They have their wpns, and all vehicles but two.
1635	Col Shriver	Col Caum	Has attack started yet? No. Get Tank CO to phone. CG wants us to get off right away with or without infantry.
1636	14th Armd	Col Shriver	We are out of radio communication but I've come from front and Tanks have taken off. They had Infantry with them. Will go forward and check to confirm and report back.
1655	Lt Eddy	Ex O	Early today we got a truck of mines but could not get through to Rittershoffen. They are now at Neiderbetschdorf. The mines were to go to Capt Caringola. Ex O explained alternate route.
1700	Lt Taylor	315th Inf	The TDs arrived 1630 in Neiderbetschdorf. Taken over by 814th TD.
1705	Capt Cunningham	reported to CP:	There are no Germans in Rittershoffen. Our Co A is intact, Co B is intact, Co C suffered heavy casualties especially in Officers. G Co is still holding part of Hatten. Both routes to Rittershoffen are open.
1710	Col Shriver	S-3	Are there enemy in Hatten. Yes, Get word to G Co that tanks will be hitting Hatten from East and G Co should go to work now and clean out town before dark, while tanks have pressure on town.
1715	Col Shriver	Col Caum	How are things, do you have a radio you can take with you and keep contact with us. Yes. We've got to get the Germans out and straighten that MLR.
1740	Maj Dillender	S-3	Commanding General 42d Division has arrived.
1750	Msg from 3rd Bn		Front stable; casualties light. Have assumed command one platoon Baker Company.
1750	Msg given to 3rd Bn		Advise us, after contact to left, information of Companies B And C and assist in reestablishment of old MLR. Written Msg #4 given Pvt Reid for delivery.
1810	Major Leebron		Reported wounded picked up on edge of Hatten at 1755.
1825	Gen Wahl	Maj Hoover	One platoon of tanks Co A will be left with Holton. General wants local protection for tanks. Tanks released at same time. Col Shriver leaves this situation. Estimate of situation given by Major Hoover to our General. Be sure Hatten is cleared, particularly cellars.

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2010	G-2	Maj Hoover	At 1100, Rittershoffen received 12 rds of 105, again at 1135 about same amount, again about 1215 with 6 rds North of church. At 1630-1700, 6 - 8 rds fell 600-800 yds Northeast of intersection at Leiderbetschdorf. During afternoon area of Rittershoffen received artillery fire on Cn Co pos. Lost one 315th cannon. That is all specific, other sporadic.
2030	Col Shriver	TFWAHL	Would like to leave one Co in Rittershoffen instead of platoon, until attack is completed. There are more enemy troops in Hatten than originally thought and the situation on enemy armor is not clear. OK'd by TFW Cmdr.
2112	Maj Hoover	2nd Bn 315th	Put a Co in running SE from 3rd St in town to 180234 and a Co from North of town to Northeast. 138345. Leaving one Co in town to assist in attack tomorrow. Send patrol to contact G Co and find out where front line of G Co is. Have Cos ready to move right away. Report as soon as you make contact with G Co.
130	Col Shriver		Advised Tk Capt that he was sending two Companies of the 315th Infantry Regiment to protect them. The 242d does not know the plans. Advise Col Caum of this arrangement. Tank Capt was at 2nd Bn CP, Col Caum is forward at Hatten, and has been out of communication with Regimental CP.
200	S-3	B Co 304th Engr	Advised of Booby trapped TD South of Hatten. Col Shriver wants situation cleaned up.
230	Gen Wahl	315th CO	The tank in Eastern part of town is being fired on by TD. Get contact with this tank, it may be our own. Col said he would have the TD Officer check this immediately.
230	Col Caum	Col Shriver	Col Caum said: I got to the 1st Bn CP, and they are going to have a hell of a time clearing out the town in the dark. There is a tank with an 88 raising hell. We ran into no resistance at all and we made the CP where there are about 30 men. Reynolds is in the East end of town, up to the church. Enemy also in East end of town. Streets are being MG'd by tank and we'll get a bazooka team. Col Shriver said: Stop the clean up of the town tonight. We've got to get that tank first. I have ordered Holton to constitute the line to the right to tie in with your people, and to attack at 0800 if we can't reconstitute that line tonight. On the left TDs are going to work up through so the tanks will be ready to operate. Holton will explain all these orders. Col Caum said: We have not taken any prisoners lately. Last were five, taken about 1 1/2 hours ago. We have Co A on left, one platoon of Co B on right. B Co in the Eastern end of town. Enemy is between them. Col Shriver said: Holton will watch left flank, stop trying to go forward, but get that tank out of there. Col Caum will return to CP after seeing Holton.

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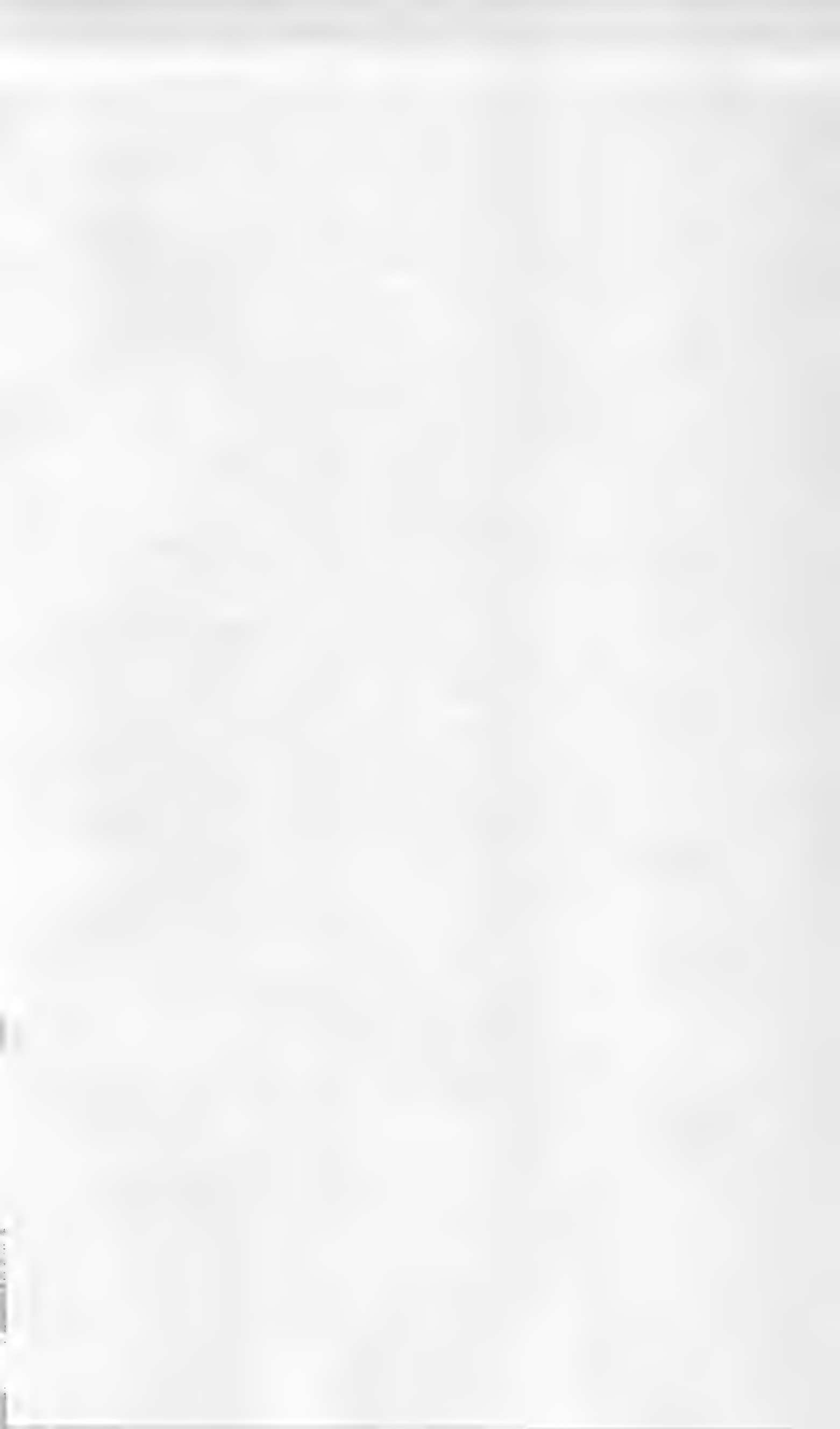
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1830	Ex 0	Capt Darling	Make thorough search for any 1st Bn men in Rittershoffen and return them to Hatten. Report results to this Hqs.
1830	CO	Ex 0	G Co is 150-200 yds in Hatten. Have not made contact with 1st Bn troops. Town is burning. Reynolds to try to contact Rusteberg. Tanks went around flanks and are behind Hatten. TD in town still OK. Tanks won't go into town until Infantry has cleared town. Patrols trying to clarify what is in front. No resistance on front so far. Trying to get wire to Hatten.
1840	L O Tk Bn	Col Shriver	2nd Bn 31st Inf will relieve fwd elements of 48th Tk Bn. 48th Tk move its units back to original position at Surbourg and Soultz. They are to be prepared for action against enemy again at daylight. Time of their relief subject to approval of Col Shriver. 48th to leave one platoon with you.
1855	S-3	2nd Bn	Contact has been made with 1st Bn. CP is intact. Troops are holed in. No stragglers of 1st Bn in 2nd Bn sector. Capt Burns: CP was intact at 1515. A Co had Nos 9,8,7 pillboxes, gave up 4,5,6.
1855	S-3	3rd Bn CO	Patrols are out tonight. No enemy patrols in creek bed. Controlling B Co platoon. Balance of B Co unaccounted for. Line will be restored tonight.
1920	Capt Watson reports on	3rd Bn situation:	Capt Watson believes that Germans are building up force in wooded area facing Hatten. Tanks came within 200 yds of Cn Co with troop carriers. Tanks forced Cn Co to withdraw. There were about two Cos of Germans coming through (about 300 men). I think Germans are digging in South of Hatten. One AT gun of Keplinger's platoon was abandoned because it was under fire of 88s, and could not be reached in daylight, will try to get it back tonight. Saw some American troops being taken back as prisoners, couldn't say how many. One platoon of B Co joined 3rd Bn believed others were taken prisoner. Capt Watson called 1st Bn for men who were eye-witnesses of penetration and can get information on German troops who may be occupying positions within our lines. Keplinger's platoon knocked out several tanks.
1945	Ex 0	1st Bn	Co A is in position with about 90 men on the line. Capt Burns reports that Co B platoon is back in its original position. B Co lost one pillbox (L) #1. C Co still fighting on edge of town. May have one Officer left. D Co still had one section of MGs and mortars left. Enemy had fifteen personnel carriers in Hatten, at one time. Last German tanks didn't bring Infantry with them.

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S E C R E T

CP	MAJ LEEBON	Requesting information whether or not he could evacuate wounded from HATTEN.
2247	S-3 Sgt TWISS	Am in town about 1/4 mile, near G Co CP. He does not know where church or Red CP is. A sniper is controlling entrance to town. An attempt has been made to knock the sniper out. Twiss has run out of wire. He is leaving his test phone near G Co CP.
2337		Col CAUM and Maj MITCHELL returned from 2nd Bn CP
0042	Capt THAMES CP	Requesting that TDs bound for 232d be held until Guide shows up to take TDs to 232d. TDs have not shown up.
0710	Arty Ln O	Reports that 3rd Bn 242d heard some tanks warming up to their front along Rd 209322. Also report quite a lot of vehicle movement and some talking in vicinity of 209322.
0730	Maj Hoover G-2	There is one enemy tank known to be in the East of HATTEN and perhaps two or three more.
0745	Ex O Lt DEAN	Situation Cn Co. We are ready to go into position. Maj GRANT will give you your new positions. No word from Capt KOLLER.
0755	2nd Bn	Reports that enemy infantry is moving up on left of Hatten.
0759	Engr CO EX O	Bridge at Koenigsbrunn not blown. Bn CO did not want bridge blown.
0800		Counterattack scheduled to jump off.
0825	S-3 3rd Bn	Bridge ordered blown was not blown because 3rd Bn needs it for communication. It is well blocked on other side.
0830	Capt METZINGER-B Co 304	Engrs. Send two or three men to this CP to remove booby trap from TD.
0830	S-3 3rd Bn CO	Send patrol to (172322 to 180323) to sweep woods for MG firing on our troops.
0835	Gen WAHL Col SHRIVER	Cn Co to go to RITTERSHOFFEN on East edge.
0845	Lt JOHNSON Ex O	A Co had nineteen men at CP. Enemy opened up with tanks that were in buildings protected by MGs. BURNS with REYNOLDS OK. RUSTBERG, SMITH in cellar that was blown up. ROCHELLE & DUFFY probably buried alive. Germans had about fifteen tanks warming up at 0615. Only about 500 foot troops around. They are coming from South.



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JOHNSON Ex 0 B Co 1800 yesterday. Tanks pinched B Co off attack with flame throwers. One platoon intact.

Co Co 1800 yesterday. There were about 300 yds north of railroad astride roads around pillboxes 4 & 5. No officers left. Pillboxes Nos. 9,8,7 and 5 on left were held by A Co.

0900 AT CO Ex 0 Our tanks drawing small arms fire from 3rd Bn area.

0910 GENERAL LINDEN AND GEN COLLINS will call at CP this morning.

0930 Arty Ln 0 Reports twenty men going into house. Fuze delay artillery called for on house.

0935 Capt DARLING Ex 0 Co of 315th on left is pulling back and TDS are withdrawing on left North of HATTEN and half-way between RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN. Col FRICKE; What about tank in HATTEN? It was still there. Have ten prisoners, 2nd Bn, can't spare men to bring them back. Thirty rds of bazooka ammo to 1st Bn last night and thirty rds this morning. Lt PESDIRTZ has contact with 1st Bn on 300 Radio. They need food and ammo, 2nd Bn is sending supplies to them. E Co men just got in. Two TDS were knocked out and they had to withdraw from position (1834). They were hit with infantry and 88s firing from point of woods (198340) east of HATTEN. Col FRICKE instructed Capt DARLING to get E Co men back to positions.

1025 Ex 0 3rd Bn CO General orders you to blow bridge at KOENIGSBRUCH.

1030 Ln 0 Received information about infiltration between HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN and to east of HATTEN.

1045 CO 3rd Bn Advise situation. Report no enemy activity to front, except for patrolling, fighting on left. Nothing has gone through woods. No tanks in sector. CR well covered by artillery. In cemetery south of HATTEN, road along cemetery being used by all types of vehicles moving west. Artillery is on the road but not stopping traffic. Can't see any infantry, MG at 195325 being dug in.

1110 Ex 0 2nd Bn 2nd Bn S-2 clears North and South of HATTEN for Artillery fire.

1110 2nd Bn Ex 0 Request Artillery fire 181346

1115 Capt HOLBROOK Artillery being fired on 181346.
Col SHRIVER

1120 S-3 Ex 0 Tanks and inf to North coming over our A Co positions. S-3 was told tanks are familiar with situation and are covering threat from North. S-3 was ordered to get commo established from 2nd Bn rear to 2nd Bn forward. He informed me that two lines were being laid by Regtl wire section at this time. He was ordered to get runners out. Runners had gone out but had not returned.

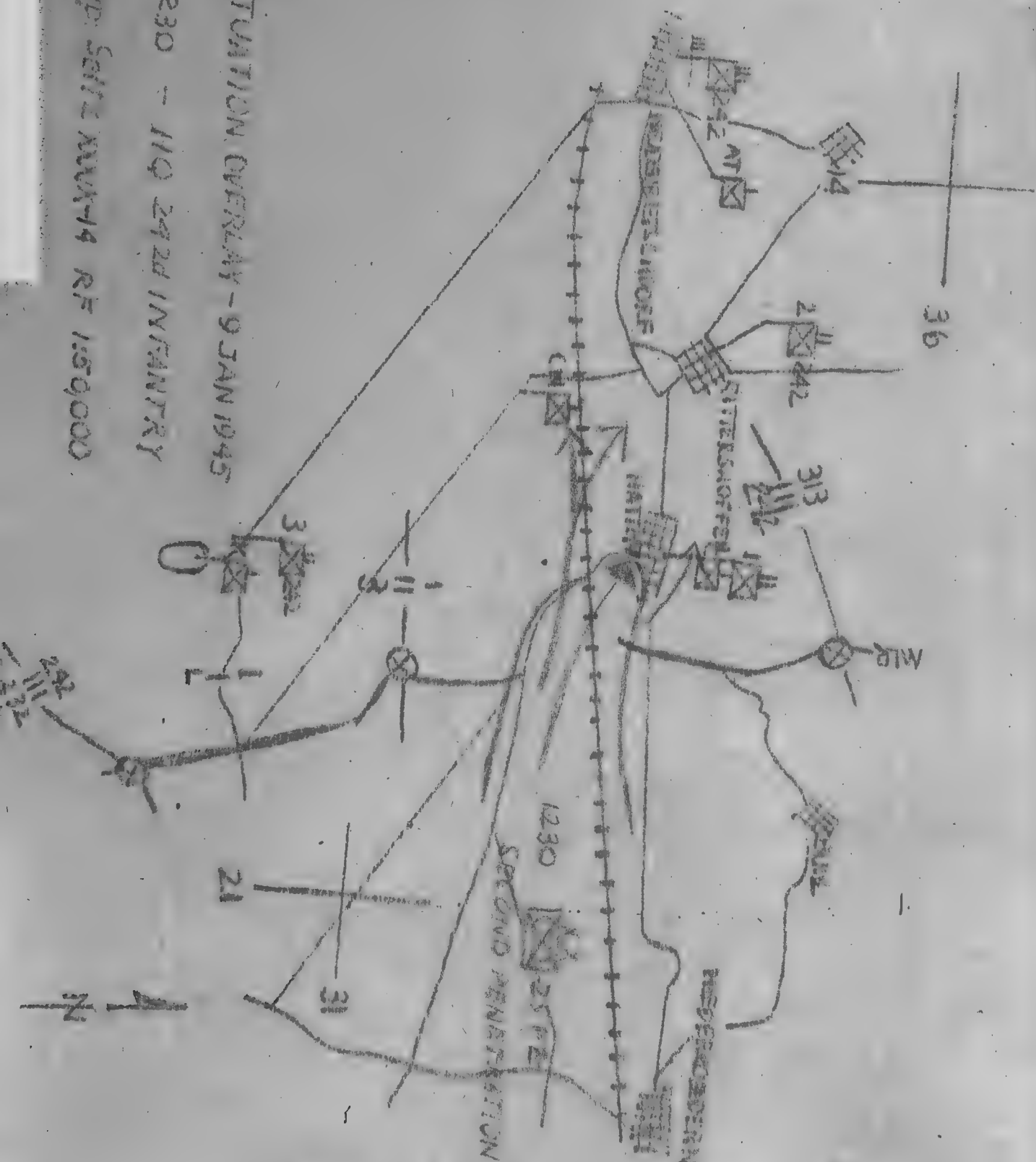


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1125	3rd Bn	CP	Bridge at KOENIGSBRUCH blown.
1125			Advised Engers that bridge is blown.
1125	Tank Cndr	S-3	Reports German counterattacking has altered plans. Line now bends back around HATTEN with some friendly tanks protecting right flank and friendly tanks are countering on left.. Tank CO is requesting an additional Co of tanks.
1145	Ex 0	Capt Darling	We have tanksthere to knock out enemy tanks. Have Capt sSTECK make ren for position between RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN on NE of HATTEN. Ex 0 to S-3: More friendly tanks are coming up and will take care of this situation. S-3 says town of HATTEN must be cleaned out.
1150	CO 315th 2nd Bn	S-3	Does not recommend shifting E Co position. CO 2nd Bn 315th Inf is not concerned about Infantry counterattack from North, their reserve Co is deployed to take care of this. They're just sitting tight and waiting until situation in HATTEN is cleaned up.
1152	Capt RIMER	S-3	Reports 1 1/2 ton trucks picked up at CP 2. Two to each Bn, two to AT Co, three to Cn Col
1155	Ex 0	3rd Bn Co	Be sure to coordinate your plan for patrols with Artillery officer.

SITUATION OVERLAY - 9 JAN 1945
1230 - HQ 242d INFANTRY

REF ID: A67890





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THORITY
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S E C R E T

S - 3 JOURNAL

242d Inf.

CP: NEIDERBETSCHDORF

TO : 11 1200 Jan 45
11 1200 Jan 45

TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE AND INCIDENTS
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1202	Ex 0	S-3	Tk Support is on the way.
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1212	T/4 Egetle,	Radio repairman,	1st Bn: We were completely cut off last night. I have not seen Col RUSTEBERG. I saw Capt BURNS and Capt BRZICA. This morning I contacted 79th CP and asked if it was clear to our CP. They didn't know.
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1213	S-3	Ex 0	Part of one platoon of E Co withdraw from HATTEN and returned to RITTERSHOFFEN this morning. Our Inf was doing OK until two TDs pulled out. Officer of H Co reports that Capt STECK told him that enemy trucks were coming across field with Infantry and tanks and knocked out two TDs. The 3rd one pulled out.
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1215			German plane unidentified strafed NEIDERBETSCHDORF. Formation of planes unidentified was observed flying to South East.
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1216			Enemy reported $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North of RITTERSHOFFEN firing Burp guns.
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1223	Col SCHREIBER ^{SHRIVER}	CG 79th	Things are not clearing up here, can you alert HATTEN? We need more troops.
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1225	CO	S-3	No information. Stragglers out of H Co being rounded up. Everything quiet, have seen no friendly tanks yet. No contact with HATTEN. Last word from A Co at 2100 last night and holding pillbox #9.
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1230	Capt HOLBROOK ^{SHRIVER}		Maj EASTMAN has been alerted to move to 2nd Bn sector. Will report to this CP for instructions.
------	----------------------------------	--	---

1230	Col SCHREIBER ^{SHRIVER}	3rd Bn	315th Inf: CO and S-3 to report to COL SCHREIBER at NEIDERBETSCHDORF immediately. Bn reported alerted.
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1255	3rd Bn	Ex 0	Maj JOHNSON reports eight enemy tanks going toward HATTEN from East followed by enemy Inf.
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1255	FA Ln 0		Called for fire mission on eight tanks and Inf. moving East toward HATTEN.
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1300	Ex 0	2nd Bn S-3	A runner came from HATTEN reported following: Went up last night to 315th F Co, are in town to open field. G Co in town and South out of town. Our G Co in SW portion of town, have 1st five blocks cleaned up, ie. up to church. Two tanks are in buildings in town. Wire team being sent to 2nd Bn CP.
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05	S-3	- Col SCHREIBER ^{SHRIVER}	315th Reserve Co around North and NE portion. Wants permission to place our platoon on South of town. Col SCHREIBER ^{SHRIVER} will check and take care of this request.
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1st Bn CO and Ex 0 are safe.

S-1	Ex 0		S-1 at G-1. Will pick up information at Personnel, and mail, returning around 1830.
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FROM	TO	
1330 S-3	CO	Other Bn has line to G Co. G Co has Lt Col and Major (RUSTEBERG). Our G Co working with G & F of other Bn. Not doing much because of two enemy tanks still in HATTEN. Moving Co G forward to 1st Bn CP. Then moving forward to clear HATTEN. Impossible to do much more than hold positions in houses. Need chow, bazooka ammo and hand grenades. S-3 will have truck run gauntlet with chow and ammunition.
1355 Arty Ln O	Ex O	Verifies that 1st Bn CO and Ex O are OK. Verifies that HATTEN has been cleaned out up to 150 yards of church.
1414		Shortage of bazooka ammunition was brought to attention of General LINDEN, his reply was that it was critical and he was doing everything possible. Wire to 3rd Bn out at 1415.
1428 MILLER Maj HOOVER		I Co is being hard hit by Inf and Tank on road just west of HATTEN. We need armor to knock out these tanks. Will try to send tanks.
1425 MSG CO 242d	to CO 2nd Bn 242:	Give coordinates of left rear tank so we can tie into it.
1445 Capt CLARK - Maj HOOVER		Bomb landed in HUHLENDOR on road to NEIDEN BETSCHENDORF.
1520 Gen WAHL Col SCHREIBER SHRIYER		We may get an attack on broad front tomorrow and we must have cohesive reserve by dark. Col SCHREIBER reports 1st and 2nd Bn 242d have no integrity, we want to establish them as a unit tonight. 315th 3rd Bn has not been committed yet. CG has additional Arty if we need it, let him know. Will call for it if needed.
1530 Lt WALKER - S-3		Did we send patrols into woods below where attack came yesterday? 180320 to 190320. South East of HATTEN, 3rd Bn patrols were in these woods. There is nothing in those woods now. We are occupying 180322, tied in solid with 3rd Bn. Patrols to the SW and have found some Germans earlier. The Germans are preparing positions in the open, close to the V. Positions are being dug in.
1543 Ex O	Order given to Capt DeREUS, S-3 3rd Bn.	To return to his Bn, organize patrols to patrol woods of Bois de Rittershaff to find out what forces are concentrated in that area.
1545 2nd Bn S-2 - S-2		Things are improving in HATTEN, one tank knocked out, one left. No activity on right. Other Bn of 79th is moving in HATTEN. REYNOLDS and VALENTINE are 400 yds in town in the City Hall. Road is clear to edge of town.

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NARA DATE: 12/8

FROM TO

1550 Ex O to Capt METZINGER to report to CP when he returns.

1700 Our tanks went East on RR and some crossed toward woods to South 165323.

1730 Ex O 3rd Bn CO FA Observer say flare from woods on our tanks. Investigate immediately on N edge W of your line to Cn Co.

1730 Surg Ex O Lt VICKERY of B Co is at infirmary. Suffering from exposure but available for questioning. Clearing station moved up to HATTEN.

1750 HOLBROOK Capt MARTIN - Our armor is between you and that town with orders to go up. Will call back with more Information about our troops in HATTEN.

1755 HOLBROOK Capt MARTIN - E Co hit hard by our own tanks (315th) Where are the twelve enemy tanks? They are around grid line 18 working NE, around church. Arty fire will be safe in there along eastern edge of town. Tanks are not moving. No troops near. Tanks are situated 182337 to edge of town. E Co is in West edge of town held down by small arms fire. Capt HOLBROOK will call for Arty fire on tanks.

1825 232d S-3 - S-3 Enemy Outposts located from 218290 along road Southeast to approximately 220286. Another series of Outposts on woods starting from 220294 and along woods up to 225300. Series of Outposts from approximately 222North to road crossing, to 225318; then from that road crossing North to next road crossing at 225331 there are about four (4) or five (5) LMGs. Also from that road crossing 225331 West along that road is a Company of Infantry dug in on each side of road. Then at 226334 there are HMGs and Mortars. This unit identified as 125th Armd Ren Bn from the 25th Pz Grenadiers. Its mission to secure the flanks for the Westward attack of a larger force. Larger Force has forty (40) tanks and assault Guns located at NIEDERROEDERN, 230341. These tanks have now moved NW to BUHL. The CP of this unit is located at the town of NIEDERROEDERN. (From interrogation of two PWS from FORSTFELD, by 232d.

2150 G-3 S-3 Reported 2nd Bn relieved by 315th 2nd Bn and are reorganized for counter-attack tomorrow.

2300 315th 242d OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS: -
1. 1st and 2nd Bns 242d Inf withdrawn from present front line positions. 2nd Bn 242d Inf reorganize in vicinity RITTERSHOFFEN, be prepared as reconstituted reserve to assist 315th Inf (-) restore line East of HATTEN on order. Be prepared to repel counterattack on order.

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5 NARA DATE: 12/8

FROM TO

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS: Cont.

2. 2nd Bn 315th Inf secure portion of HATTEN now held by troops. Continue attack daylight to clear remnants of HATTEN of enemy and establish defense line East HATTEN. Be prepared to repel counterattack against HATTEN.
3. 3rd Bn 315th Inf remain in present position outposting RITTERSHOFFEN. Be prepared prior daylight 11 Jan with Cos, Medium Tks to repel possible counterattack from right or left HATTEN on order.
4. Cn Co provide observation with each Bn prepare defensive fires on call.
5. AT Co, one platoon attached each Bn present position. one platoon with 3rd Bn 315th Inf present position.
- 6 Tanks - One Co medium Tks remain with 3rd Bn in present position prepared to repel armored counterattack.
7. TDs, one platoon TDs support 2nd Bn present position against Tk attack.

OFFICIAL:

HOOVER
S-3

0215	3 Bn Blue -2	All up and down front tanks are moving. Seem to be on road to HATTEN. About 2000 yards to front. Moving front right to left (NW) toward HATTEN.
0225	S-3 38 Blue -2	Have you any patrols along that road now? NO. Order: Observe the action and call me back.
0310	3 Bn Blue -2 S-3	Request Artillery shift fire 300-400 yards to left. Is falling, but effect can not be observed.
0345	JOHNSON S-3	Requested information on 1st Bn stragglers. No information. He reported they were coming in small groups, five and six at a time. No count on total.
0350	S-3 3 Bn Blue -2	Request patrol to try to find Tank Assembly Area. Ans: Will try to locate.
0405	BURNS RUSTEBERG	Maj SMITH now on way to CP. Col CAUM notified.
0540	3 Bn Blue -3 S-3	Reports both armor and trucks moving into HATTEN.
0720	CO 242d CO 2nd Bn 242d	Move your Bn, with any elements of 1st Bn to NIEDERBETSCHDORF immediately. Report to me here. CAUM.

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FROM TO

1900 Maj ~~SHRIVER~~ ^{SHRIVER} Artillery concentration on RITTERSHOFFEN was terrific, 400 rds would be an underestimate. Believed that rocket firing jet-propelled planes were active. There are tanks NE section of HATTEN. Get one tank and one possible, we don't know what type.

2318 Lt TABB S-3 Signal supplies have been requisitioned. Will be here in two or three days.

2415 Maj CUNNINGHAM S-3 Regarding number of wpns available in 242d. Outside sources not available. Tried another unit. Not possible, because that unit isto help us tomorrow in other ways. Only immediate recourse is redistribution within unit.

0445 Ex O TF WAHL Capt HOLBROOK reported tank activity. Patrol activity of Germans very heavy. Tanks warming up at 179331.

0450 Ex O TF- G-3 Same message as above.

0655 Ex O TF WAHL Tanks are firing into buildings occupied by our troops. Tanks came from NorthWest.

Supplement to Page 4

10 - 11 Jan

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ND 735 017

AUTHORITY

15 NARA DATE: 12/8

From

To

1st and 2nd Bns arrived NEIDERBETSCHDORF
FOR reorganization.

1010

3rd Bn.

S-3

All quiet in 3d Bn. sector.

1000

2d Bn. ordered to take positions N and E
of NEIDERBETSCHDORF to prepare defensive
positions.

1130

Phone communication established with AT
Co. and Cn. Co.

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 PRIORITY
 NARA DATE: 12/8

S E C R E T

11 1200 Jan 45
 TO : 12 1200 Jan 45

S -3 JOURNAL

242d Inf
 CP: NEIDERBETSCHDORF

TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE AND INCIDENTS
1200	3rd Bn	S-3	Visibility poor I Co reports, ^{enemy} vehicle believed to be truck going SE at 215321.
1245	S-3	3rdBn	Don't give any weapons to S-4 or anybody.
1300	1Bn 311 FA Biscuit Red	S-3	Kraut patrol on NW of town North of 858.
1330	3rd Bn	S-3	Nothing in woods where Cn Co used to be. Will keep patrols in woods all day.
1430	3rdBn	S-3	Three Artillery shells fell on Co K front from directly East (cal. unknown) at 1410. Otherwise OK.
1530	CO	3rd Bn	Requested information. Advised everything quiet in 3rd Bn area. Col CAUM advised of our impending attack.
1600	1st Bn	S-3	Advised of unidentified troops moving South East from (145338) approximately, in front of their positions. Advised that they are probably friendly troops.
1608	1st Bn	S-3	Troops are friendly troops.
1625	Col CAUM	1st Bn	Have you any observation of tank activity South of HATTEN. NO.
1700	2nd Bn CO	S-3	Would like to get into RITTERSHOFFEN to pick up equipment, is it safe. Not safe at present, will advise when town has been cleared out.
1730	3rd Bn	S-3	L Co OP reports movement NW of their OP. Otherwise quiet.
2000	New CP opened	(121331)	
2106	3rd Bn	S-3	Reports all quiet.
2208	1st Bn	S-3	Reports white aluminum rocket at 2156 in front of Co F positions.
0300	3rd Bn	S-3	Reports status of vehicle strength:

I Co	2	1/4	ton	trks		
K Co	2	"	"	"		
L Co	2	"	"	"		
M Co	9					
AT Plat	3	1 1/2	"	"		
" atchd	3	1 1/2	"	"		
" "	3	1/4	"	"	1 1/2	ton trks 7
Commo Sec	4	1/4	"	"	1/4	ton trks 1
Hq & Staff	3	1/4	"	"	1/4	ton trks 25
A & P Plat	1	1 1/2	"	"		
Med Det	1	1/4	"	"		
" "	1	1/4	"	"		
Chaplain	1	1/4	"	"		
TOTAL VEH		33				

Reports fire in vicinity of FORSTFELD
 3rd Bn also reports MG situation normal.

FROM: TO

Notes given by Lt CAMPBELL on Plan for Counter Attack:

H hour 0750,
Two Cos of armored infantry ^{atk} from 153345.
One Co of armored infantry ^{atk} from 153335, supported by one
platoon of medium tanks on Left and one platoon of medium
tanks on Right. CCB elements to screen area North of attack.
1st and 2nd Bn 242d will hold present positions and act as
sector reserves. When MLR is reached, CCB 14th Armored will
clear area in front of MLR moving North and South. Armored
Inf will move up occupy MLR until 242d Inf is able to take over.

550 Dy O 1st & 2nd Bn Continue holding present position, patrol to your
front report your situation by this messenger
at once.

615 CO 315th Dy O I & R platoons report enemy on RR at (154328)
moving SW and heard small arms fire at 163314
after withdrawing from vicinity of enemy patrol.

625 Col DORRMAN Dy O Requested new enemy information, results of
TF WAHL patrolling. No new information! Inform TFW
when wire com to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bn is restored.

640 Dy O 3rd Bn Inform us an area of patrolling. Enemy activity
encountered and enemy fire received.

735 2nd Bn Dy O Friendly troops to attack RITTERSHOFFEN at 0800.
Also will attack HATTEN at 1000. No enemy activity
in sector except occasional shelling, will
hold present positions.

740 Dy O TF WAHL Above information relayed.

850 Msg from 3rd Bn 0721 Situation unchanged.

850 Patrol went out to get batteries to HATTEN.

0920 S-3 3rd Bn Requested information regarding patrolling.
Little or no activity reported by patrols
during night.

0925 1st Bn S-3 Negative report.

0945

0950 S-3 2nd Bn Requested information regarding patrolling.
Everything quiet.

Msg from 3rd Bn CO See disposition overlay as of 2000 11 Jan for
area patrolled. OP contacted. Enemy artillery
fire very light. Received fr msg cen 0930

1120 Maj SHRIVER S-3 Where is CP? Overlay to Maj SCHRIVER that he
requested. Will report all TDs in our area.

1230 CO CO 3rd Bn Direct you to send patrol to woods 1632 to find
enemy tank, patrol will have available means to
destroy.